

Anthropology Critical analysis essay

Anthropology refers to the study of the ways of life of a people with a view of explaining why they do their things the way they do. The study of anthropology, therefore, has the primary objective of enabling one to understand culture and cultural practices of a particular community. This paper aims to presents a critical analysis of the course material in relation to jokes and reciprocity within a particular society.

The major focus of anthropology aims to focus on the conduct, activities and ways of life of a given people. As such, there are sub disciplines of anthropology such as cultural, biological and religious anthropology. The study of religious anthropology advances the practices that different populations have on the way they worship. Religious anthropology has a direct relation with the economic activities of a given population. In many cultures in the world, the conduct of prayer and religious activities call for the use of particular regalia. In many societies, religious practice has different levels. The higher levels of religions are often occupied by the overseers and the preachers of the particular denominations. In some societies, those who occupy the upper rungs of the various religious organizations have specific qualifications and need to wear particular clothing. In other religion, specific cadre of worshipers has the qualification to use certain beads that they use in discharging their religious duties. The sale of the clothing an the beards are often made by the qualified people or equals within the society.

Anthropology also delves on reciprocity amongst various cultures. The discussion on reciprocity is discussed in depth on the analysis made by Marshall Sahlins. According to Sahlin, there are three major forms of reciprocity that one can use to further the butter trade. The three forms of reciprocity include generalized, symmetrical and negative reciprocity. Sahlins is known

to advance the debate on the relationship between social relationships and reciprocity. Sahlins further presents a set of premises that establish the tripartite relationship between morality, social relations and reciprocity. In some instances, altering a transaction can be a social blunder and negatively affect a social relationship.

The holistic approaches to jokes can also be discussed in the context of anthropology. The essence of a joke is to make fun of something or to just tickle people and enable them to be happy. A joke can at times be hidden in the culture and the skits that are exclusive to a particular culture that requires one to understand a culture to grasp the joke that is presented by one. The understanding of one's culture enables one to avoid the blonde moments that one might have when a joke is made.

Jokes are often presented in cartoons. The cartoons are many a times jokes that are primarily relevant to a particular culture. For example an American cartoon is many a times different from a Chinese or a Japanese cartoon owing to the stark differences in the two cultures. Cartoon on family lives of the Asian, that is, Japanese and Chinese and the Americans can enable to have an inner understanding of the two cultures.

When is an outsider in relation to a particular culture, there is absolutely zero probability of the individual being able to understand the joke owing to the translations that needed or required for the individual to be able to identify and reason with the joke. In many cultures, the sweetness of a joke is in the manner at which it is said or presented and the ability of the audience to grasp the concept with much ease.



The cartoon above presents a photograph of a banking officer perhaps in telephone conversation with a prospective client. The wordings from the banking officer tell the bank is set to explain the reasons as to why the operation and running of the banks are cheap and affordable. The wordings from the banking officer and the pictorial presentation in the cartoon depict a stark and clear difference on the status of the financial system of the United States of America. The next three paragraphs present an annotation of the cartoon that is presented above.

To begin with, the pictorial presentation of the banking officer having the head of a shark and the background pictorial of small fish depicts the economic state of the United States of America from the view of an anthropologist. The economic situation of the American people depict the banking system is fleeing the public. The picture of the banking officer having the head of a shark is a joke that the author of the cartoon uses to establish that the banking officers in the United States have the nature of their dealings more as animals than humans.

Second, on the left side of the picture is a window that shows the high-rise buildings. As such, the angling or the gradient that the office of the banking officer is seems to be relatively higher or at par with the high rise buildings within the vicinity. The joke that the cartoon further

presents is the relation of the sharks and the heights. The presentation of the heights, fish and the sharks causes laughter on the impossible existence of the sharks on the higher altitudes. The inability of the sharks to live on land depicts that the banks have to direct relationship with the people who they seek to represent in their economic interests.

The other joke that is present is the presence of the stationery that is placed on the table. There are stacks of paper that are on the table with the modern technology that are available on the cartoon being mainly the phone and the cell phone that the banking officer uses. The joke that is the said aspect of the cartoon asserts that the banks have to relation to the current trends that are there in the United States of America. The ability to comprehend the understanding of the cartoon requires one to analyze the culture of the Americans, particularly in regard to their financial behavior. The culture of the Americans establishes that the Banks are the main support system that they have in their quest for economic growth. Americans main thrive in debts thus the depiction of the banks and the banking officers having the shapes of sharks owing to the nature of their dealings within the society.

Critical analyses of the premises that are postulated in the course material depict the application of the course in the cultural and economic anthropology. The understanding of the course material further establish that for one to understand the various aspects of belief and traditional aspects of various populations and people speaking groups, one needs to know how the community relate and their usual practices.

The content of the course in the analysis of the cartoon is in depth and enables one to conduct an annotation. There are various elements that can be used in the analysis of anthropological cartoons. The elements that one uses to analyze the anthropological cartoons

include clothing, other objects, the word choice and the relationships that exist amongst the different characters. The choice of the words that is often used in the anthropological cartoons can be used to advance the nature of the discussion that is presented in the course content.

A critical review of the course material proves that cartoons and jokes can be used to study and analyze the cultural traditions of a society. The presentation of cartoons from two different societies or tribes can be used to show an outsider how the traditional practices of the given society advance. For example, the course material is used to show the difference that exists between the American and the Japanese cultures.

The understanding of the culture of the Americans in regard to the family requires one to look at the cartoons that are often published in the journals and the frequent publication within the country. The same applies to the cartoons in Japan. The need to have a review of the publication has the primary objective of enabling one to go through the stories that are written and the cartoons that are drawn. Usually, the cartoon that is often used in a daily or in a regular publication has to relate with the daily lives of the target audience to which the message of the cartoons is aimed at.

Conducting the critical analysis of the jokes of a particular tribe requires one to be sensitive to the cultural practices and the choice of words that are often used within the particular society. Wrong choices of words can concord the original meaning and intent of the joke that one seeks to make. As such, the original meaning of the joke can be easily lost. Second, the understanding of the joke requires one to first place the joke within a given context then reflects on the intent and the audience of the joke. As such, jokes can be used to advance the cultural traditions and practices of a given society owing to the context and audience of the given joke.